

Vol. 11 No. 12
July 27, 1967

THE HATE WAVE

Behind the Violence in the Cities

All the cliches, all the stereotypes, all the pat explanations of the race riots in our cities--what's behind them and who is behind them--are now largely irrelevant in light of what is being discovered about the background of events in Detroit, Newark and other urban centers.

The long-range causes of unrest are what they always have been--unemployment, unequal educational and job opportunities, poor housing, prejudice, illiteracy, over-population. These are the problems that have occupied the attention of city and federal officials, educators and civil rights leaders for three decades and about which there have been ample warnings, if not always ample remedies.

There is no doubt, despite U.S. overseas commitments, that the Johnson Administration has been tackling these problems with greater intelligence, more money and a zeal unmatched in our times--and doing it far better than there was any reason to expect. The best minds and the most dedicated, hard-working men and women in government are to be found in the Office of Economic Opportunity, H.E.W. and H.U.D.

But there is a parallel problem with which local officials and all those who have been in the forefront of the struggle for human equality--educators, liberals, PTAs, civil rights workers, trade unionists--have shown themselves to be unfamiliar and, even when acknowledging its existence, have been unable to handle. It has been five years building up and is now almost out of control.

It's the problem of organized, incessant and intensive hate-mongering that has been going on in the Negro communities since the early 60s. It threatens to make a shambles of the work of The Great Society, The New Frontier and The New Deal. It could easily reactivate the most extreme right-wing groups--as Far Left extremism did in one state, California. The most charitable explanation for the failure of moderates and liberals, as well as many Negro leaders, to come to grips with the new and largely unmentioned problem of hate-mongering is that there have been so many legitimate grievances, a kind of tolerance for extremist behavior has developed, where Negroes are concerned.

But Detroit is not Los Angeles, Mayor Cavanagh is no Mayor Yorty, the city has made substantial progress in many areas that require social change. This city is the home of the U.A.W., not the White Citizens Councils. If Detroit could explode then any U.S. city can do the same and, if the black klansmen are not isolated or compelled to make retribution for what they are doing, many Governors other than Romney will be asking for federal troops.

The public has become familiar with the sophisticated hate-mongering of the Floyd McKissicks and Stokely Carmichaels; what it does not know about is the cruder propaganda of the Black Muslims and now some two dozen, or more, off-shoot Black Nationalist groups that is directed to emotionally susceptible young Negroes.

What follows is from one of many publications widely circulated in the Negro communities of the major American cities, that are typical, not exceptional.

One publication is called "Black Power" and appears in the San Francisco Bay area. Its slogan: "1967, Year of Organization". Its symbol, a Black Panther. The current issue starts with an attack on a Negro broadcaster, Donald Warden, and asks "Is Don Warden an Agent?"

Its first objection is that he merely reported the arrest of 16 "brothers and sisters" in NYC, part of the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), who allegedly were plotting to assassinate Roy Wilkins, and other prominent Negro leaders. "If Don Warden was so much for Black Power and Black Unity as he says he is, then why does he blow on Black Brothers for something they haven't been found guilty of even in Whitey's courts?" Why does he take the white press' word for the matter....?"

Next the paper attacks Warden even for inviting one of the editors of leftist Ramparts, Robert Scheer "a white boy" to appear on his program and then for having "a white minister...when the topic was Christianity".

The attacks continue along these lines, interspersed with frequent obscenities, and insinuations that relatives are having sexual relations with whites, all aimed at not only taking Warden off the air but at physical extermination as well.

✓ "If there was evidence that Don Warden was a true, sincere Black Brother, who was just fucking up, we could sympathize with him. But all the evidence we see points to the fact that Don Warden is not a true Black Brother at all, but is working hand in glove with the FBI, CIA, and Whitey's other Secret Service Agencies...

"Don Warden, we, the Black Community and all the forces that we represent, say that you are full of ----, and if you continue fucking up, Blackness and Justice will be taken with you and your kind."

Ties With Arabs and N. Vietnam

There is total sympathy for Egypt and the other Arab states so far as relations with Israel are concerned, as there is with North Vietnam whose "fighting spirit...is whipping Whitey's ass in Southeast Asia..." The editors of "Black Panther" summarize a June 16 article from "Al Ahram" of Cairo "telling the inside story of the war of aggression against the Arab countries, launched by the United States and Israel."

So far as the Vietnamese war is concerned, the impressive showing of Negro American troops seems a cause for considerable comment, the line being that lack of education and jobs is what causes so many Negroes to enlist.

(More)

But another line of argument is that Negroes are being drafted "to keep frustrated, dissatisfied Black youth from accelerating the Afro-American liberation struggle." That is they are being sent to Vietnam to keep them out of "the movement".

Along with strong anti-Christian sentiment, there is even stronger anti-semitism of which the following poem is an example:

JEW-LAND

(To the tune of "Groovin", by the Young Beasts)

Jew-land, On a summer afternoon
Really, Couldn't kill the Jews too soon

Now dig, The Jews have stolen all our bread
Their filthy women tricked our men into bed
So I won't rest until the Jews are dead

In Jew-land, Nailing Rabbi's to a cross
Really, Don't you think that would be boss?

You know the Jews don't really want to fight
They're gonna say that we're just anti-Semite
But I don't care because the Jews are white

In Jew-land, Don't be a Tom on Israel's side
Really, Cause that's where Christ was crucified
No-no-no-no

(New stanza)

We're gonna burn their towns and that ain't all
We're gonna piss upon the Wailing Wall
And then we'll get Kosygin and De Gaulle
That will be ecstasy, killing every Jew we see

Jew-land, Not another day should pass
Really, Without a foot up Israel's ass
No-no-no-no

Jew-land, Uh-huh-uh-huh, Jew-Land.

Women and Black Power

There seems to be little doubt any longer than one reason why the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee was transformed from a genuine "non-violent" group into one of the most violent had little to do with civil rights but a great deal to do with jealousy on the part of some young Negro women.

One of the top SNCC leaders, no longer with the organization, was suspected of having a white girl friend. Until this became rather common knowledge inside the organization there had been little talk of "black power" as a serious concept. Generally the position has been that Negroes, making up 10 per cent of the population, had little alternative to following the Gandhi-like tactics of Dr. King.

It was some of the young Negro women, according to those familiar with what went on, who began to say that Negro men had no pride in their own kind if they went out with the "white queens". Later Carmichael transformed this protest into an ideology. Meanwhile white women became unwelcome at SNCC.

Carmichael himself has apparently been making a good thing out of "the movement". In May he spoke at the University of Minnesota for which he received an honorarium of \$1,000. However, the students who arranged for the lecture wanted several days in which to pay Carmichael and other debts. A bitter argument erupted and Carmichael insisted on being paid before he left the campus. A young woman with him was quoted by The Minnesota Daily as telling a vice president of The Minnesota Student Assn., "I want that money and I want it now. If I don't get, I won't hit you--I'll cut you up with a razor blade." She told the University's Human Relations Coordinator, "I used to have a lot of respect for you, but you are the crookedest white man I know."

In the Detroit rioting, a key activist, was also a young woman.

Women, many of whom are said to be more sympathetic to pro-Maoist Communist elements, are also active in anti-draft agitation. This appears to be true on both Coasts.

Targets of the Propaganda

A Maoist Communist-type leaflet, circulated in Harlem has a large picture of Uncle Sam with large letters that read, "Uncle Sam wants YOU, nigger." Among other inflammatory slogans, it says, "Become a member of the world's highest paid black mercenary army!"

Police-baiting is another favorite. A cartoon was circulated in Oakland, Calif., which read, "Support your local police." The drawing was of a pig, bearing badge 206.

In every community where the black nationalists are active the ground is fertile for the "Hate Whitey" ideas they are implanting. In almost every major city there are some 10,000 to 15,000 restless youngsters who receive most of the hate literature and to whom it is clearly directed.

In many cases these are the first generation youngsters of parents who migrated North from Dixie. They are jobless and under-educated. They have no ties with churches or fraternal organizations, such as the Elks and Masons which once attracted large Negro membership.

There seems to be no doubt that television, seeing what living in America can be like, has also had its impact. They have seen life on the other side of the mountain and they will not be denied.

If there is any brighter side to what has been taking place it is that in Newark, with all the shooting, there were fewer than 50 snipers. In both Detroit and Newark less than one per cent of the Negro population was involved.

#